

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073868

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 73868 ACTION NEW DELHI APR 2

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073868

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG/IR

SUBJECT: USG POSITIONS FOR CONSUMER PRODUCER PREPARATORY
MEETING

REF: TEHRAN 2847

1. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING MATERIAL TO REPLY TO
YEGANEH'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON USG POSITIONS ON
PROCEDURAL AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR PREPCON AND EVENTUAL
CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT
WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN GREATER
DETAIL WITHHIM IN BILATERAL MEETING WE HAVE REQUESTED
BEFORE THE INITIATION OF THE PREPCON.

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I. PROCEDURAL ISSUES.

2. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE: WE BELIEVE THAT, IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE FORMAL CONFERENCE MUST BE RESTRICTED IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY BROADLY BASED IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION TO ENSURE THAT VIEWS OF VARIOUS GROUPS AND TYPES OF COUNTRIES ARE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. WHILE WE HAVE NO FIXED VIEW ON ACTUAL NUMBER, WE WOULD TEND TO FAVOR

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS LARGER THAN THAT AT THE PREPCON, PERHAPS IN RANGE OF 20 TO 30.

3. ON BILATERAL VERSUS TRILATERAL QUESTION, OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE IS TO AVOID POLARIZATION OF PARTICIPANTS ALONG RICH VERSUS POOR OR NORTH VERSUS SOUTH LINES. IN GENERAL TERMS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT PREPCON SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE FORMAL CONFERENCE. WHILE ALL COUNTRIES HAVE CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS IN ISSUES LIKELY TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE FORMAL CONFERENCE, THERE ARE SOME ISSUES ON WHICH PRODUCERS, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MAY HAVE VARIED INTERESTS. THEREFORE, WE FAVOR AN ORGANIZATION FOR THE FORMAL CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD REFLECT THIS TRILATERALISM OF INTERESTS IN CERTAIN AREAS. HOWEVER, WE SHARE COMPLETELY IRANIAN INTEREST IN AVOIDING ANY COALITION BETWEEN TWO GROUPS AGAINST THE OTHER ONE.

4. FORMAT: THE MAIN QUESTION ABOUT FORMAT IS WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE JUST A PLENARY CONFERENCE OR SOME COMBINATION OF PLENARY AND WORKING GROUPS. WE HAVE NO FIXED VIEWS AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH THE IRANIAN DELEGATION. TENTATIVELY, WE ARE INCLINED TO SUPPORT AT THE PREPCON A FORMAT INVOLVING WORKING GROUPS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL.

5. CHAIRMANSHIP: WE AGREE WITH YEGANEH THAT CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE NEUTRAL. WE BELIEVE THAT CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE RELATIVELY TECHNICAL IN NATURE. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES INCLUDING A SUITABLE NEUTRAL COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, A HIGH LEVEL UN OFFICIAL, OR PERHAPS A FORMAT FOR A SHARED CHAIRMANSHIP WITH VARIOUS GROUPS OF COUNTRIES SUPPLYING A CHAIRMAN ON A ROTATING BASIS.

6. DATE OF FORMAL CONFERENCE: IN OUR VIEW IT IS

ESSENTIAL THAT FORMAL CONFERENCE BE PRECEDED BY CAREFUL PREPARATION. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT A PERIOD LONGER THAN THE ONE MONTH MENTIONED BY YEGANEH WILL BE REQUIRED BETWEEN THE PREPCON AND THE EVENTUAL FORMAL MEETING.

II. CONSUMER ISSUES AS AGREED BY THE IEA.

7. WE ARE PLEASED BY INITIAL GOI SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED AGENDA DRAWN UP BY THE IEA. THIS AGENDA FULLY REFLECTS THE FIVE POINTS STRESSED IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH OF FEBRUARY 3 AND SEEKS TO HIGHLIGHT AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION.

III. ADDITIONAL ISSUES THAT MAY BE RAISED.

8. USG POSITION ON THESE ISSUES, E.G., INCLUSION OF RAW MATERIALS, INDEXATION, GUARANTEED MARKETS, ETC., IS THAT IT WOULD BE AN ERROR TO ATTEMPT IN THIS CONFERENCE ON ENERGY TO ADDRESS THE VERY COMPLEX AND WIDE-RANGING QUESTIONS POSED BY THE INCLUSION OF SUCH ITEMS ON OUR WORKING AGENDA. WE SHARE THE GOI'S DESIRE THAT THE DIALOGUE NOT BREAK DOWN AS A RESULT OF CONFRONTATION OVER THIS ISSUE. BUT WE THINK THAT WE WOULD ALL, PRODUCERS AS WELL AS CONSUMERS, BE WELL ADVISED TO FOCUS ON ENERGY AND THOSE ISSUES DIRECTLY RELATED TO ENERGY. ANY DIFFUSION OF EFFORT WOULD LESSON THE CHANCES THAT THE PROPOSED PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE WOULD BE ABLE EFFECTIVELY TO DEAL WITH THOSE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH WERE THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR CONVENING IT. WE RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE INTEREST OF THE LDCS WITH REGARD TO RAW MATERIALS, ETC., BUT WE THINK IT DESIRABLE TO PURSUE OUR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF THIS QUESTION
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IN OTHER FORA WHICH ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED VR IN PROSPECT, SUCH AS THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, THE IMF, ETC. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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